

REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants have elected Group I, claims 2-4, with traverse for prosecution at this time. Groups I-III are linked by linking claim 1. As noted by the Examiner, upon the allowance of the linking claim, the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions is to be withdrawn and any claims depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim will be entitled to examination along with the claims 2-4 in Group I.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

January 23, 2002
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Respectfully submitted,
REED SMITH, LLP

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